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1 1. An automated method for setting up a natural language interface in a
2 Web site comprising the steps of:
3 defining a hierarchy of topics into which individual documents or
4 Web pages can be classified;
5 generating a keyword index for those documents; and
6 for each topic in the hierarchy, associating a set of n-grams to a
7 topic in the topic hierarchy, which set of n-grams is distinctive to that topic
8 and wherein the n-grams may be sparse n-grams or non-sparse n-grams.

1 2. The automated method for setting up a natural language interface in a
2 Web site recited in claim 1, wherein the step of generating a keyword
3 index comprises the step of extracting sparse n-grams of keywords for each
4 group of pages in the topic hierarchy.

1 3. The automated method for setting up a natural language interface in a
2 Web site recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of optionally
3 reviewing and editing the keyword index.

1 4. An automated method for setting up a natural language interface in a
2 Web site comprising the steps of:
3 automatically inducing a topic hierarchy by examining a structure
4 of the Web site;
5 creating n-grams from pages in the Web site that are associated
6 with a topic in the topic hierarchy and wherein the n-grams may be sparse
7 n-grams or non-sparse n-grams; and
8 creating rules from the n-grams, wherein each topic has associated
9 rules that are used to decide if a new input document or query references
10 the topic.

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- 1 5. The automated method for setting up a natural language interface in a
 - 2 Web site recited in claim 4, wherein the step of creating rules is performed
 - 3 automatically and further comprising the optional step of manually editing
 - 4 the rules.

New claim 6 is as follows:

- 1 6. The automated method for setting up a natural language interface in a
 - 2 Web site recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of converting the
 - 3 set of n-grams to classification rules.
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